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INDUSTRY FACTS



More than **14,295** dairy, poultry and egg farmers provide access to fresh, local, high-quality food for Canadians.¹

Canada's dairy, poultry and egg sectors:



SUPPORT
430,978
JOBS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY.²



CONTRIBUTE
\$14.86B
IN TAXES.³



DELIVER
\$45.13B
TO CANADA'S GDP.⁴

^{1,2,3,4} Kevin Grier Market Analysis and Consulting Inc. (2024).
The 2023 Economic Impact of Dairy, Poultry and Egg Sectors in Canada. [Data].

Message from the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food



This fall, the Downtown Diner returns to Ottawa to celebrate Canadian food raised by Canadian farmers. This annual event on Sparks Street is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy delicious egg, poultry and dairy snacks and connect with farmers. It's also a chance to learn more about Canada's supply management system and the benefits of our made-in-Canada approach.

For over 50 years, supply management has served farmers, Canadians and food businesses from coast to coast to coast. Uniquely Canadian, the system supports food sovereignty and security by providing safe, nutritious local food, making it a perfect fit for our first-ever National Food Security Strategy, which aims to put **more Canada on Canadian plates**.

Our supply-managed sectors also help drive Canada's economy forward, generating over \$16 billion in farm cash receipts last year, while supporting thousands of jobs across the country and giving generously to food banks.^{1,2}

I want to thank Egg Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Turkey Farmers of Canada, and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers for everything you do to support the sector. You are valued partners. Your input is essential to shape the next agricultural policy framework, due to launch in April 2028, and I will continue to sit down with you to discuss our shared commitment to a successful and resilient future for the sector.

Today more than ever Canadians are choosing the high-quality, locally-grown food our farmers deliver—especially our outstanding egg, poultry and dairy products.

Enjoy your visit to the Downtown Diner, and be sure to thank a Canadian farmer!

The Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

¹ Statistics Canada. (May 2026). *Farm cash receipts, annual*. 150.stat.ca.gc.ca
² Canadian Hatching Egg Producers. (2026). *2025 Annual Report*. cheep-pois.ca



How supply management helps strengthen Canada's food security

As trade uncertainty and geopolitical disruptions expose vulnerabilities in global supply chains, one thing is clear: food sovereignty matters.

Canadians agree. More than nine in 10 say it is important to ensure Canada has as much control as possible over its food supply.¹ This level of support has remained constant over the last year of trade uncertainty and tension.

As Canada seeks to strengthen that sovereignty, it must safeguard, not trade away, the policies and systems that deliver for Canadians.

Canada's dairy, poultry, and egg sectors, and the supply management system upon which they are built, are practical examples of what a resilient and reliable domestic food supply looks like, and why it must be defended.

Under supply management, dairy farmers work together and match Canadian supply with demand. Many Canadian dairy products proudly display the Blue Cow Quality Milk logo, certifying that they are made with 100% Canadian milk and milk ingredients, produced according to the high standards Canadians expect. Together, Canada's dairy farms and processors help maintain a stable supply of homegrown food for communities across the country.

Canadian milk is produced on more than 9,000 farms across the country, supporting

270,000 jobs and contributing \$28 billion to Canada's GDP. More than 500 processing facilities then transform that milk into products like yogurt, butter, cheese, and ice cream, meaning most dairy here is produced and processed in Canada, from farm to table.

Yet, Canada has given up a growing share of its domestic dairy production in successive trade agreements. Each concession may seem incremental, but together they threaten to erode the stability and resilience that supply management has delivered for decades. Each loss impacts our food sovereignty, our economy and our communities.

Canada introduced supply management in the 1970s in response to price volatility and unpredictable farm incomes, which made it more difficult for farmers to cover their production costs. Recent news highlights the continued fragility of international supply chains and why this choice is worth protecting.

While other countries may have chosen a different path, their farmers often face greater volatility and boom-and-bust cycles, with governments stepping in to support production with hefty subsidies. Consumers end up paying for that support twice: through their taxes and at the checkout.

In Canada, on the other hand, the stability of supply management empowers dairy farmers to strengthen our local food supply



Supply management fosters a dairy sector defined by high standards and resilience.

by investing in their farms, enhancing productivity and on-farm sustainability, and contributing to thriving rural communities.

Supply management has also led to some of the highest standards in the world when it comes to animal care, milk quality, biosecurity, traceability, food safety, and the environment. Artificial growth hormones are banned in Canadian milk production, and all milk is tested to verify there are no antibiotic residues.

Supply management isn't just about what's on our plates, but about how we produce it. And we should not underestimate its value.

Canada has made a legislative commitment to defend supply management at the negotiating table, and that commitment is crucial. We thank parliamentarians from all parties for their continued support.

Our supply-managed dairy sector helps provide something no other country can give us: the ability to feed ourselves. At a time of increasing global uncertainty, that has never been more essential.

To learn more about the Canadian dairy industry, visit dairyfarmersofcanada.ca

¹ Nanos Research Corporation. (April 2026). *Not on the table. Nine in ten Canadians Refuse to Trade Away Food Sovereignty*. [Survey data]. nanos.co

Raised with pride and intention: placing trust in Canadian turkey

Canadians care about where their food comes from and how it is raised. For generations, Canadian turkey farmers have built Canadians' confidence through responsible farming practices and a commitment to quality. Choosing Canadian turkey means choosing food they can feel good about.

Much of that trust is built on Canada's system of supply management. The stability it provides gives turkey farmers the confidence to invest in their farms, adopt new technologies and plan for the future. In turn, they support local supply chains and rural communities, help keep family farms strong for generations, all while providing high-quality turkey to Canadians across the country.

That same stability also creates the conditions for continuous improvement. With the confidence to invest long term, Canadian turkey farmers are continually finding ways to improve efficiency and environmental performance. Ongoing innovation, including advancements in genetics and feed, has helped keep the environmental footprint of Canadian turkey competitive with other poultry products.¹

Trust in turkey farmers also comes from accountability. Canadians want to know their food is produced responsibly, and turkey farmers are

committed to earning that confidence. Through Turkey Farmers of Canada's mandatory TFC Flock Care Program[®] and TFC On-Farm Food Safety Program[®], which are independently audited each year, farmers meet rigorous standards for animal care with the remaining farmers being new entrants who are actively completing the certification process, giving Canadians confidence in the quality and care behind the turkey they choose.²

Bottom line: From the care they provide their birds to the investments they make in their farms and the innovations they adopt to farm more sustainably, Canadian turkey farmers produce a reliable supply of high-quality turkey products, while earning trust and confidence.

To learn more about Canadian turkey and turkey farming, visit turkeyfarmersofcanada.ca

¹ Groupe AGÉCO. (2023). *Screening Environmental and Social Life Cycle Assessment of Canadian Turkey*. turkeyfarmersofcanada.ca

² Turkey Farmers of Canada. (2026). *2025 Annual Report*. turkeyfarmersofcanada.ca



Choosing Canadian turkey farms means choosing food you can feel good about.

Canadian hatching egg producers are strengthening Canada's food supply



Canadian hatching egg producers like Beata Kunze, from British Columbia, are investing in their operations and increasing production to meet growing demand for Canadian chicken.

Demand for Canadian chicken is growing, and Canada's hatching egg producers are responding with record levels of production and plans to produce even more in the years ahead.

In 2025, Canadian producers supplied more than 921 million broiler hatching eggs, helping to provide the chicks raised by chicken farmers across the country.¹ With demand for chicken continuing to rise, Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP) has been working with its member provinces to create the conditions for producers to expand production and strengthen our food supply.

"We're seeing tremendous growth across our sector, and there's never been a better time to be a hatching egg producer in Canada," said Brian Bilkes, Chair of CHEP. "Our producers are responding to demand, investing in their operations and producing more. The stability of Canada's supply management system has strengthened cooperation between our provincial hatching egg boards, giving producers the flexibility and confidence they need to keep growing."

National hatching egg allocations have increased from approximately 859 million eggs in 2024 to more than 945 million

in 2026.² With hatching egg production growing alongside demand for Canadian chicken, the sector is on track to produce more than one billion hatching eggs annually in the years ahead.

For hatching egg producers like Beata Kunze, from British Columbia, that growth represents an opportunity to build for the future.

"We know the demand is there, and as producers we want to be part of meeting it," said Kunze. "Having the stability to plan ahead allows us to invest in our operations, grow our production and produce more Canadian food."

As production expands, CHEP is also looking further up the supply chain. Canada currently relies on the U.S. for primary poultry breeding stock, leaving an essential input exposed to trade uncertainty, animal disease, and other cross-border disruptions.

That's why CHEP is working closely with industry and government partners to attract greater investment in domestic poultry breeding capacity and bring more of this critical supply chain to Canada.

"We have producers ready to grow and a market that needs more production," Bilkes said. "The next step is ensuring the breeding capacity and infrastructure behind our producers can grow with us."

With continued government support for supply management, targeted investment programs and efficient regulatory processes, Canada can attract that investment and strengthen our food sovereignty by producing more food here at home for Canadians.

To learn more about the Canadian hatching egg industry, visit chep-pois.ca

¹ Canadian Hatching Egg Producers. (2026). 2025 Annual Report. chep-pois.ca
² Canadian Hatching Egg Producers. (2026). 2025 Annual Report. chep-pois.ca

How egg farmers are building a stronger Canadian food future



Third-generation egg farmer and Chair of Egg Farmers of Canada, Roger Pelissero, farms with his family, including his son Jacob, and has seen firsthand how egg farmers drive growth in Canada's agricultural sector.

As a third-generation egg farmer and Chair of Egg Farmers of Canada, Roger Pelissero has seen firsthand how egg farmers drive growth in Canada's agricultural sector, responding to strong demand for domestically produced food and strengthening our food system. Today, he and his fellow 1,290 egg farmers in every province and the Northwest Territories ensure a reliable supply of eggs that Canadians can count on.

Collectively, Canada's egg farmers produced over 11.24 billion eggs in 2025, helping keep pace with Canadians' growing appetite for nutritious, affordable eggs—as average consumption rose to 271 eggs per year, up

13 eggs from the previous year.¹ The sector has also welcomed 275 new farms over the last decade alone.²

This momentum reflects an already strong domestic food system, one that the next generation is ready to lead. "I see that commitment up close through my son Jacob who farms alongside me, and in the many young farmers I've met who are stepping up," says Roger. In fact, approximately one-third of egg farmers are under 45 years old, and one in five are new to the sector.³ "Young people are choosing egg farming and embracing innovation and sustainable practices along the way," he adds.

With these new and young farmers come fresh perspectives, innovative ideas and practices, and an openness to adopt different approaches—all of which are vital to strengthening the security of the sector and, by extension, our domestic food supply.

The foundation of egg farming in Canada is rooted in supply management, which provides stability for egg farming families and the Canadians who depend on nutritious, high-quality eggs. It supports over 19,800 jobs across the country, contributing \$1.9 billion to Canada's GDP and generating \$675 million in tax revenue—strengthening both rural and urban communities and Canada's overall economy.⁴

Producing eggs at home means we are providing staple foods locally, supporting the federal government's National Food Security Strategy and the prosperity of our rural communities. This is reflected in the fact that 93% of Canadians see egg farmers as important contributors to Canada's food security.⁵

"Canada has a real opportunity to continue strengthening our domestic food system for future generations—one that can withstand supply chain pressures, keep staple foods within reach and ensure farming remains viable here at home," adds Roger. "That means continued government investment in the tools and programs that support our farmers, along with strong policies that champion Canada's high standards and protect supply management. These measures make sure farmers can keep producing the food Canadians want and rely on, while contributing to a resilient food system."

To learn more about egg farming in Canada, visit eggfarmers.ca

¹ Egg Farmers of Canada. (2026). [Calculated by EFC].

² Egg Farmers of Canada. (2026). 2025 Annual Report. eggfarmers.ca

³ Egg Farmers of Canada. (2020). [Unpublished raw data].

⁴ Kevin Grier Market Analysis and Consulting Inc. (2024). *The 2023 Economic Impact of Dairy, Poultry and Egg Sectors in Canada*. eggfarmers.ca

⁵ Abacus Data. (2026). *National Omnibus Survey*. [Unpublished raw data]. Prepared for EFC.

Ending border fraud: how the government can better support Canada's chicken sector



Tim Klomp maker, Chair of Chicken Farmers of Canada, at his chicken farm in Ontario.

As a chicken farmer, I can tell you that farmers like me across Canada take pride in providing Canadians with a reliable supply of high-quality, locally raised chicken year-round. Yet, ongoing border fraud is eroding our hard work, limiting our opportunities to grow the sector, and ultimately putting our Canadian chicken sector and Canada's food safety at risk.

The issue involves broiler chicken mislabeled as "spent fowl." Spent fowl are egg-laying hens processed for meat at the end of their laying cycle. Under Canada's trade rules, spent fowl can enter duty-free and without limits, while broiler chicken is subject to tariffs and import controls. Since the two kinds of chicken meat look the same, some

importers falsely label broiler chicken as spent fowl to bypass Canada's import rules.¹ This misleading practice is concerning not only because it sidesteps our agreed-upon trade rules, it also undermines us as farmers taking production away from our farms and processing plants, and Canada's food safety, as mislabeled meat cannot be reliably traced in the event of a recall.

The problem is growing. In 2025, spent fowl imports into Canada reached a record 115 million kilograms—35% higher than the year before.² When converted into whole bird equivalents, those imports equal 93% of all spent fowl produced in the U.S., despite the U.S. also supplying its own market and exporting spent fowl to

other countries.³ The economic cost is substantial. Based on 2025 data, this fraud is linked to the loss of about 3,600 Canadian jobs, \$394 million in economic activity and \$129 million in tax revenue that our sector would have otherwise provided.⁴

Fortunately, there is a solution. With support from Chicken Farmers of Canada, Trent University developed a DNA test that can reliably tell the difference between broiler meat and spent fowl. In March 2025, the Government of Canada committed to developing an action plan to improve the detection of mislabeled spent fowl imports.⁵

Now it's time to follow through. Canadian chicken farmers **call on the government to implement DNA testing to stop spent fowl border fraud, protect our domestic chicken production and help ensure Canadians continue to have access to a safe, secure food supply.** Our farms, families and Canadian consumers are counting on it.

To learn more about chicken farming in Canada and the issue of spent fowl, visit chickenfarmers.ca

¹ Chicken Farmers of Canada. (2026). *Chicken Imported as Spent Fowl*. chickenfarmers.ca

² Chicken Farmers of Canada. (2026). *Stop Illegal Imports of Spent Fowl* (info sheet, February 2026), citing Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Monthly National Fowl Statistics.

³ Chicken Farmers of Canada. (2026). *Chicken Imported as Spent Fowl*. chickenfarmers.ca

⁴ Chicken Farmers of Canada. (2026). *Chicken Imported as Spent Fowl*. chickenfarmers.ca

⁵ Canadian Food Inspection Agency. (2025). *Tackling Spent Fowl Fraud at the Border to Protect Consumers and Support Canadian Farmers*. canada.ca

Canadian food from Canadian farms: supply management delivers

Food produced in Canada, for Canadians, matters now more than ever. At a time of global instability, geopolitical tensions and pressure on food systems, Canadians want policies that strengthen Canada's food sovereignty, protect domestic agriculture and ensure families can continue to rely on a stable, secure supply of high-quality Canadian food. Recent research shows:



93%

OF CANADIANS believe it is important for Canada to have as much **control as possible** over its own food supply.¹



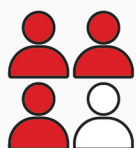
91%

OF CANADIANS say recent **trade instability** has reinforced the need to **maintain** supply management.²



70%

OF CANADIANS believe Canada should prioritize **producing more food at home**.³



3 OUT OF 4

CANADIANS SUPPORT THE CORE OBJECTIVES OF SUPPLY MANAGEMENT: Ensuring a **stable supply of domestic agricultural products**, lessening price fluctuations and ensuring a stable income for Canadian farmers.⁴

Supply management keeps our food system strong, resilient and affordable. It is more important now than ever to have the right systems in place to ensure Canada's national food security and ability to feed itself today and into the future. By continuing to back supply management, Parliamentarians can help protect the stability that both Canadians and farmers need.

¹ Nanos Research Corporation. (July 2026). *Support for supply management, ensuring control over Canadian food supply, and defending the interests of dairy farmers in trade negotiations all remain strong*. [Survey data]. nanos.co

² KPMG. (2025). *Two-thirds can weather a trade war that lasts more than a year*. kpmg.com

³ Abacus Data (2026). *National Omnibus Survey*. [Unpublished raw data]. Prepared for EFC.

⁴ Nanos Research Corporation. (July 2026). *Support for supply management, ensuring control over Canadian food supply, and defending the interests of dairy farmers in trade negotiations all remain strong*. [Survey data]. nanos.co